

HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS (IMPORT/EXPORT)

EXPORT FROM FRANCE (AS APPLICABLE TO A RETURNING U.S. CITIZEN):

DISCLAIMER: The information below relating to French legal requirements is provided for general information only and may not be totally accurate in a particular case. Questions involving interpretations of specific provisions or application to a specific case should be addressed to French government officials.

The following documents are required in order to ship personal effects and furniture when moving from France. (Used household & personal items qualify as effects when they have been owned and used for 6 months or more and are intended for personal use in the new place of residence.)

1. Inventory Declaration (*Inventaire-Declaration*):

Three copies on plain paper (plus copies in English for U.S. Customs.) This Inventory is a list of all personal effects and furniture, including automobiles, being exported. It must also include a sworn statement declaring that the articles listed on the Inventory have been owned and used by the exporting party for more than 6 months. (U.S. Customs request that this Inventory be as complete as possible, indicating the value and a description of each article.)

2. Pass from the Income Tax Office (*Laissez-passer des Contributions Directes*):

May be obtained from the office of the *Contributions Directes* of the place of residence in France. This pass, in effect, should state that no outstanding tax payment is due in France. There are 2 types of passes:

a. *Certificat de Non-Imposition*, Form No. P234 (or a statement from the tax inspector) for a non-taxpayer - stating that the said party owes nothing in taxes.

b. *Bordereau de Situation*, Form No. P237 for a tax-payer - stating that there is no outstanding tax to be paid in France.

3. A Change of Residence Certification (*Certificat de changement de domicile*):

may be obtained upon presentation of the *laissez-passer* from the Income Tax office (II) and one copy of the Inventory Declaration (I.) An American obtains this document from the Prefecture de Police, Services des Etrangers, 1, rue de Lutèce, 75004 Paris if he, or she lives in Paris --or-- from the Prefecture de Police, or Mairie, if he, or she lives in the suburbs of Paris or in the provinces.

4. For someone who has been employed in France:

It is recommended that he/she obtain a letter from his/her employer stating that he/she is leaving France after so many months or years of residence.

Restrictions:

1. For the exportation of collector's items or items more than 100 years old there are long & expensive formalities including a *Permis d'Exportation* (Export Permit) which can be obtained from the Banque de France or the French Customs office. For all questions concerning exportation of works of art or other valuable items, please contact the

Centre de renseignements douaniers
23 bis rue de l'Université
75700 Paris 07 SP /
Tel: 01 40 24 65 10

2. In order to export a quantity of alcoholic beverages a permit is required from the Tax office.
3. A certificate of origin is needed to export Champagnes & Cognacs. (This document is provided by the wine merchant.)

KEYS: should be labeled and attached to all trunks or pieces of furniture

Exporting Automobiles:

If exporting a car, it should be listed on the Inventory Declaration for U.S. Customs, stating the year of manufacture, the original cost, the make, the model, and whether it meets U.S. specifications.

IMPORT INTO FRANCE:

DISCLAIMER: The information below relating to French legal requirements is provided for general information only and may not be totally accurate in a particular case. Questions involving interpretations of specific provisions or application to a specific case should be addressed to French government officials.

The documents listed below are required for the duty-free shipment of personal effects & furniture by a person moving to France. (Effects and furniture are considered to be personal effects when they have been owned and used for six months or more, (or one year for an automobile,) and are intended for personal use in the new place of residence.) French regulations require that the effects be shipped within a period of one year from the declared date on the stamped Change of Residence Certification.

1. A Change of Residence Certification (*Certificat de Changement de Domicile*):

May be obtained at the French Embassy or consulate nearest the place of departure. This certification states the date of the change of residence and MUST be stamped by a French consular official.

2. Detailed Inventory (*Inventaire Détaillé*):

A list of all personal effects and furniture, including automobiles, being imported; to be dated & signed by the importer. This Inventory should be as complete as possible, indicating the value in dollars and giving a description of all valuable properties, such as antiques, collector's items, and cars. The Inventory must also include a sworn statement declaring that the articles listed on the Inventory have been owned and used by the importing party:

- (a) for at least six months for all personal effects, and furniture,
- (b) for at least one year for automobiles, and
- (c) stating that there are no outstanding U.S. taxes owed on the vehicle.

This Inventory should be in French and must be stamped at a French Embassy or consulate.

For all questions concerning importation of works of art or other valuable items, please contact the:

Centre de renseignements douaniers
23 bis rue de l'Université
75700 Paris 07 SP /
Tel: 01 40 24 65 10

Included as Duty-Free Household Effects:

Cats and dogs; stamp collections, provided they are for personal and not for commercial use; tradesmen's hand tools; bicycles; sewing machines; typewriters; automobiles; one television and one radio.

Household Effects that are not Duty-Free:

Motors imported separately from the vehicle or appliance; speed boats; pleasure craft (except canoes and kayaks); school, store & office furniture; wine, alcoholic beverages; trucks and utility vehicles; and raw materials.

Restrictions on Duty-Free Household Effects:

A person who is importing a television should go to a *Radiodiffusion Television* office soon after arrival in France. All televisions used in France are subject to taxation (*redevance audiovisuelle*.) However, some American-made televisions must be drastically adapted to work in France, (which uses a SECAM L system) and the cost of this procedure is often higher than the cost of a new television. There are customs restrictions on the importation of various guns, ammunitions, and certain printed matter. Check with the nearest French Consulate in the U.S. to obtain the specific restrictions on the importation of these objects.

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Personal Services:

At Your Service :

This company offers a comprehensive range of personal, and corporate services aimed at simplifying busy schedules, reducing stress, and making Paris easier. Some of these services are: errand running, party planning, settling-in assistance, house hunting, referrals, administrative assistance, etc.

Telephone 01 47 95 12 30

Website: (<http://www.atyourserviceparis.com>)

Email: info@atyourserviceparis.com

Culture Crossings:

Seminars and workshops on intercultural management issues and living in France and other countries, as well as books about getting the most out of working, visiting and living in France.

Polly Platt, consultant and author of French or Foe and Savoir-Flair, established the company in France in 1986. Culture Crossings, Ltd., 51, rue de Bellechasse, 75007 Paris

Tel: 45 56 04 62

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Website: (<http://www.pollyplatt.com/>)

E-mail: platt@club-internet.fr

*United States Embassy
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2, rue Saint-Florentin
75382 Paris Cedex 08
France*

Telephone: 01 43 12 22 22

Website: <http://france.usembassy.gov>

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